

## GROWNUPS SHOULD BE SEEN & NOT HEARD!

### JAMES 1:19-25

As children, we often heard well-worn phrases we never looked forward to. One of my least favorites:

**“Children should be seen and not heard!”**

James 1:19-27 presents different kind of advice:

**“GROWNUPS should be seen and not heard!”**

Written to Jewish believers =>

Suffering persecution.                      Cut off from family  
Expelled from synagogues              Many lost their jobs.

When pressure rises & world seems to be falling apart...

We begin to focus on ourselves & our problems.

We get angry & complain => **We want to be HEARD!**

**James warns early church, and us, that**

**“Grownups should be SEEN; NOT heard!”**

Early church in suffering=>people could SEE what living faith looks like! Or, what its absence looks like!

For most of us, pressure is less spectacular—more subtle.

When we struggle with financial pressure; situation at work; problem in family; even pressure of school or friendships! => It's *never* easy to trust God in the dark!

James writes to encourage church in affliction:

**How God's people should live under pressure**

**Living faith produces fruit, under pressure!**

**Living faith endures tribulation 2-12**

**Living faith conquers temptation 13-27**

People complain about pressure; we blame God!

**1. Temptation DOESN'T come from God 13**

God has nothing to do with temptation to do wrong.

He may send pressure—as part of His GOOD plan!

He's separate from temptation to respond wrongly!

**2. Temptation comes from OUR desires 14-15**

Pressure creates opportunity.

Satan tempts us.              Sin attracts us.

**WE make decision based on what WE want!**

**3. God is the source of GOOD gifts! 16-18**

Everything God sends our way is good & for our good

**When we trust God & recognize His good purpose... Living faith leads to practical results! 19-27**

**LIVING FAITH PRODUCES A LISTENING EAR AND CONTROLLED TONGUE 19-20** “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry; <sup>20</sup>for man's anger doesn't bring about the righteous life that God desires.”

When pressure rises, natural response: *quick to speak & slow to listen!*—especially quick to speak *in anger!*

James urges us: be quick to *listen*, slow to speak

\* **Eager to listen**

Natural response: attack adversary; complain

Faith produces willingness to be taught by God's Word

Ancient philosopher Zeno: “We have 2 ears and only 1 mouth. Maybe that should tell us something!”

Question *isn't* whether **God is speaking**,

but whether **we're quiet enough to hear Him!**

\* **Slow to speak**—when we respond quickly under pressure, it's almost always in anger!

**Laurence Peter:** "Speak when you're angry—& you'll make best speech you'll ever live to regret."

**Stop! Listen!** Give GOD chance to speak!

\* **Slow to get angry** Doesn't say *all* anger is wrong!

Simmering pot of angry, bitter feelings produces frustra-tion—it consumes us!—eventually it will *KILL* us!

Be slow to get angry, recognizing **our anger never produces God's righteousness 19-20**

***Our anger doesn't lead to good fruit***

***God wants to produce in us!***

Our response to pressure should be different!

**We should be SEEN, NOT HEARD!**

**Living faith causes us to submit to God's Word 21** "*Get rid of all moral filth & the evil that is so prevalent & humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*"

**3 steps**—contrast to angry verbal response

**Time sequence:** "Putting away" *precedes* "receiving Word." We must do it **before** we'll *humbly* accept Word

**1. BEFORE hearing: get rid of known sin 21a**

*"Get rid of all moral filth & the evil that is so prevalent"*

Anger leads to all kinds of sin: theft to harm employer; vengeance, marital unfaithfulness, even murder!

**Get rid of everything that pollutes**

**Get rid of all remaining evil**—(overflow=>residue)

Residue from old life blocks *new* response system

When pressure rises, *we* should respond *differently*—lay aside old ways—things that mark our culture

New standard: => *does produce* God's righteousness.

**(2) While hearing: receive the Word humbly 21b** "*humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you*"

**Word's implanted in us.**

It isn't *unknown* truth; it's *inside* us

We *know* how we should respond—not willing to *do* it!

**Pastor** wronged; hurt and bitter—ended up in hospital. Friend counseled him to humble himself before the Lord & let God exalt him, because the Lord exalts the humble & opposes the proud. Everytime friend gave that counsel he got angrier—& sicker! *Eventually* he got the point.

**Word's able to deliver us!** (save soul=deliver us)

Implanted Word, delivers us from consequence of sin.

Remember 2 options:

**Pressure + faith => perseverance => perfection**

**Our desire** (doing what comes naturally) => sin => death

Implanted word interrupts cycle—blocks consequence!

It saves us from death! Keeps our anger from *killing* us!

*"humbly accept the word planted in you"*

**Stop fighting it! Submit to it! Lit., "WELCOME it!"**

**(3) AFTER hearing: put it into practice 22-25** "*Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.*"

***Don't JUST listen to it. Just DO it!***

Student asked teacher: "What do you *DO* when things go wrong; people hurt you; you're wounded & angry?"

Speaker answered: "***Have your quiet time!***"

We think: "That's too simplistic! But, that IS the answer!

**Be quiet.**

Lay aside old, polluted way of dealing with pressure.

**Listen & submit** to what the Word says. => **Just DO it!**

That's how our Lord responded under attack!

Isaiah: He never opened His mouth!

Peter: He didn't retaliate; respond with threats

God's plan is that, like our Lord,...

**Grownups should be SEEN, NOT heard!**

How about us? Rough times? Things going against us?

**God's purpose: we-HIS people-be SEEN!-not heard!**

*That we'll be SEEN letting go of the anger*

*-humbly listen to God's Word-DO what it says!*

*-keep bitterness from KILLING us!*

*Only way we accomplish that: ask HS to do His work in us*

**What will people see in US this week?**